



## **Senator Tim Golden**

### **Senate District Eight**



Senator Tim Golden, a South Georgia Democrat from Valdosta, is serving his fourth term in the State Senate representing Brooks and Lowndes counties and portions of Cook and Thomas counties. He brings a wealth of legislative experience to the body. He served four terms in the Georgia House of Representatives from 1991 to 1998, prior to his election to the State Senate in 1998.

Golden served as an aide to former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn and was a long-time aide to former U.S. Congressman Charles Hatcher. He also served as Staff Director for the U.S. House Small Business Subcommittee on Energy and Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

Currently, the Senator from the eighth district is Vice Chairman of the Interstate Cooperation Committee. Golden is a member of the Higher Education; Science and Technology; and Insurance and Labor committees.

While a member of the House of Representatives, Golden served on the Ways and Means Committee, the Banks and Banking Committee, and the University System of Georgia Committee. During his service in the House, Golden earned a reputation for being an ardent supporter of education. In 1993 he led a successful three year battle in the General Assembly to make Valdosta State a "regional university" and was honored with the school's "Distinguished Alumnus" award that same year.

Rural health care concerns spurred Golden to author the "Rural Georgia Physicians Shortage Act" in 1995. It provides tax credits to physicians who choose to practice in one of Georgia's rural counties. Golden was named the "1995 Legislator of the Year" by the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians for his efforts and the Valdosta Daily Times named him one of five south Georgians who were "unsung hero's", tirelessly working for the benefit of others.

In 1996, Golden introduced and passed the "Unemployment Insurance Tax Relief Act". It was the first of three bills he authored over a three year period that reduced employer's taxes by over \$500 million. In 1999, Golden joined with Governor Roy Barnes and Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond in passing a bill instituting a moratorium on unemployment taxes that is estimated to save Georgia employers another \$1 billion over the next three to five years. In recognition of his work, the National Federation of Independent Business presented Golden with their top award in both 1997 and 1998, naming him the "Guardian of Small Business" at the Georgia Capitol. It led the Georgia Retail Association to describe him as the "Voice for Small Business" in Atlanta. Senator Golden, along with Representative Borders, authored and passed Georgia's first "Sales Tax Holiday" helping working families and children as well as Georgia's retail sector.

Senator Golden helped found the One Georgia Authority Fund that has significantly improved rural economic development in South Georgia. He also has been a leading advocate for the HOPE scholarship since its inception in 1993. The HOPE scholarship has given over 25,000 student residents of the 8<sup>th</sup> district more than 60 million dollars in financial assistance.

Golden graduated from Valdosta High School in 1972. In 1977, Golden graduated from Valdosta State University with a degree in American History and Political Science.

Senator Golden is currently co-owner of Beacon Hill Financial, a mortgage brokerage firm. Always active in his community, Golden has served several terms as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Family YMCA. He serves on the Valdosta Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; the Board of the Valdosta Methodist Youth Home; and is a former member of the Valdosta State Alumni Board and the March of Dimes. He was in the prestigious Leadership Georgia program, Class of 1987.

Senator Golden is married to the former Ellen Stewart of Valdosta. She is an attorney. They have a son, Seth, and attend Park Avenue United Methodist Church at home in Valdosta.

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